



# WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

## STATEMENT OF BASIS FOR NPDES PERMIT NO. WA0040932 Clark Public Utilities

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Applicant:	Clark Public Utilities
Facility Name and Address:	River Road Generating Project NW Lower River Road Vancouver, Washington 98668
Type of Facility:	Electric Power Generation
SIC Code:	4911
Discharge description:	<p><b>Columbia River;</b> Water Body ID Number: WA-CR-1010 Outfall 001 Latitude: 45° 38' 45" N Longitude: 122° 43' 45" W</p> <p><b>Vancouver Lake Park</b> Outfall 002 Latitude: 45° 36' 51" N Longitude: 122° 46' 19" W</p> <p><b>Shillapoo Lake</b> Outfall 003 Latitude: 45° 38' 31" N Longitude: 122° 45' 38" W</p> <p><b>Frenchman's Bar Park</b> Outfall 004 Latitude: 45°38' 31" N Longitude: 122°45' 45" W</p>



## **Permit Modification Request**

On June 9, 2004, the Department of Ecology (the Department) received a permit modification request (the PMR). The PMR was reviewed by Denis Erickson, the Department's Hydrogeologist. The PMR and recommendations are summarized in the following technical memorandum.

### *Technical Memorandum*

*Date: July 12, 2004*

*To: Jacek Anuszewski*

*From: Denis Erickson  
Hydrogeologist*

*Subject: Request for Permit Modification for Groundwater Limits for the Clark Public Utilities  
River Road Generating Plant, Vancouver, NPDES No. WA0040932*

*I have reviewed the June 8, 2004 letter and associated data from Pacific Groundwater Group requesting a permit modification for the Clark Public Utilities River Road Generating Plant, Vancouver, NPDES No. WA0040932. The letter requests four modifications of the Enforcement Limits in Section S1.G of the permit. The requested modifications are listed as follows:*

- 1. The Enforcement Limits for total iron, total manganese, total coliform bacteria and pH be removed from the permit because natural occurring values exceed the limits.*
- 2. The Enforcement Limits should apply only to the downgradient wells (GW-4, GW-5, and GW-6)*
- 3. Total Nitrogen should be defined.*
- 4. Violations for all parameters with Enforcement Limits should be defined as exceeding the Daily Maximum Limit by 5% in the same well for two consecutive quarters.*

*My recommendations for these requests for permit modification are listed as follows:*

- 1. The Enforcement Limits for total iron, total manganese, total coliform bacteria, and pH are based on criteria listed in Table 1 of Chapter 173-200 WAC. I agree that natural concentrations of these parameters, on occasion, are exceeding the criteria for these parameters. I recommend that the permit be modified so that Enforcement Limits are not established for these parameters.*



*However, the parameters should be monitored in all wells so that Enforcement Limits may be established in future permits based on background concentrations.*

- 2. The permit should be modified to show that Enforcement Limits are established for only the downgradient wells (GW-4, GW-5, and GW-6).*
- 3. Total Nitrogen typically is defined in State Waste Discharge Permits as TKN + nitrate-N + nitrite-N. For this permit, because the facility is not monitoring for nitrite-N and because nitrite-N readily coverts to nitrate in shallow groundwater, Total Nitrogen should be defined as TKN + nitrate-N.*
- 4. The Enforcement Limits listed in the permit for all parameters excluding TDS are based on criteria listed in Table 1 of Chapter 173-200 WAC. The criteria are based on maximum contaminant levels for drinking water. It is not appropriate to add a 5% factor to the criteria to define a violation. I recommend that the current language in the permit be retained.*

Based on the above recommendations the Department is proposing to modify the permit as follows:

1. The enforcement limitations for total iron, total manganese, total coliform bacteria, and pH are removed from permit special condition S1.G. Ground Water in Monitoring Wells.
2. The enforcement limitations are established for only the down-gradient wells (GW-4, GW-5, and GW-6). Up-gradient wells, GW-1, GW-2, and GW-3, are removed from permit special condition S1.G. Ground Water in Monitoring Wells, as monitoring wells subject to the enforcement limitations.
3. Total nitrogen is being defined, for this permit, as a sum of total kjeldahl nitrogen [TKN (as N)] and nitrate nitrogen[NO<sub>3</sub> (as N)].
4. Total nitrogen is being added as a monitoring parameter for clarification to the following monitoring schedules:
  - a. Permit special condition S2.A.5. Monitoring Schedule, Discharge to Ground [effluent]
  - b. Permit special condition S2.A.6. Ground Water Monitoring, Wells
5. Minor formatting and typographical corrections.



## **Public Involvement Information**

The Department has tentatively determined to modify the permit to the applicant listed on page 1 of this statement of basis. Only the parts of the permit discussed in the statement of basis have been tentatively determined to be modified. The Department determination is described in the statement of basis.

The Department will publish a Public Notice of Draft (PNOD) on August 3, 2004, in the *Columbian* to inform the public that a draft permit and statement of basis are available for review. Interested persons are invited to submit written comments regarding portions of this draft permit that are modified. The draft permit, statement of basis, and related documents are available for inspection and copying between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays, by appointment, at the regional office listed below. Written comments should be mailed to:

Industrial Unit Permit Coordinator  
Department of Ecology  
Southwest Regional Office – Water Quality  
P.O. Box 47775  
Olympia, WA 98504-7775

Any interested party may comment on or request a public hearing on portions of this draft modification of the permit within the thirty (30) day comment period to the address above. The request for a hearing shall indicate the interest of the party and reasons why the hearing is warranted. The Department will hold a hearing if it determines there is a significant public interest in the draft permit (WAC 173-220-090). Public notice regarding any hearing will be circulated at least thirty (30) days in advance of the hearing. People expressing an interest in this permit will be mailed an individual notice of hearing (WAC 173-220-100).

Comments should reference specific text followed by proposed modification or concern when possible. Comments may address technical issues, accuracy and completeness of information, the scope of the facility's proposed coverage, adequacy of environmental protection, permit conditions, or any other concern that would result from issuance of this permit.

The Department will consider all comments received within thirty (30) days from the date of public notice of draft indicated above, in formulating a final determination to issue, revise, or deny the permit. The Department's response to all significant comments is available upon request and will be mailed directly to people expressing an interest in this permit.

Further information may be obtained from the Department by telephone, (360) 407-6280, or by writing to the address listed above.



## **Response to Comments**

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) has received comments from Lee H. Odell, Odell Engineering, Inc. The following is a list of received comments and Ecology response:

### **Lee H. Odell:**

*"In December 2003, Clark Public Utilities request and addition to the allowed Discharge to Ground area, included in the permit. The attached legal description was sent to the Department at that time."*

### **Ecology:**

The December 2003 request was not mentioned in a permit modification request (PMR) received on June 9, 2004; therefore the December 2003 request was not reviewed for this permit modification.

### **Action Taken:**

None; however Ecology will review the December 2003 request as soon as possible.

### **Lee H. Odell:**

*" The ground water monitoring program includes this discharge area, and the Engineering Report prepared for the facility includes this discharge area as well ".*

### **Ecology:**

Ecology will review the ground water monitoring program and the engineering report to evaluate if sufficient information is included in said documents to modify the permit as requested in December 2003.

### **Action Taken:**

None; however said documents will be reviewed as soon as possible.

### **Lee H. Odell:**

*"We feel it would be appropriate to include this area in this permit modification.*

*The area is commonly referred to as the "Ducks Unlimited Wetlands Restoration Area" that lies just south of Vancouver Lake."*



**Ecology:**

Ecology agrees that it would be appropriate to include the Ducks Unlimited Wetlands Restoration Area in this permit modification; however the December 2003 request was not mentioned in the June 9, 2004 PMR. Further, an inclusion of another discharge area in the permit requires the following:

1. Review of the ground water monitoring program,
2. Review of the engineering report,
3. Preparation of the statement of basis,
4. Modification of the permit,
5. Publishing of a 30-day Public Notice of Draft,
6. Responding to comments if any, and
7. Issuing the modified permit.

The above schedule would take at least two months to complete; therefore Ecology concludes that it is appropriate to modify the permit as drafted without delaying it.

**Action Taken:**

The permit is modified without including the Ducks Unlimited Wetlands Restoration Area in the permit; however Ecology will review the December 2003 request as soon as possible.